

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed April 10, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time.

Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 5, 2001.

Claims 1-11 and 21-29 were pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5-11 and 25 have been canceled, claims 23 and 28 have been amended and new claims 30-42 have been added to recite additional protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 2, 4, 21-24 and 26-42 are now pending, of which claims 2, 4, 30, 34, 37 and 40 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objects to claims 9 and 10 due to minor informalities. In response, it is noted that these claim have been canceled and thus this rejection is moot. Dependent claims 23 and 28, which were substantially similar to claims 9 and 10, have been amended herewith to correct this informality and are believed to be in proper form. Reconsideration is requested.

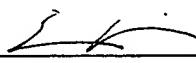
The Official Action rejects claims 1-4, 7-8, 22 and 27 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,285,041 to Noguchi. In response, Applicants have canceled independent claims 1 and 3 and the claims 5-11 and 25 dependent thereon. With respect to independent claims 2 and 4, however, Applicants respectfully submit that Noguchi fails to teach that an end portion of the second semiconductor film is provided inside an end portion of the second conductive film. For example, in Fig. 1 of the present application, an end portion of the second semiconductor film (124) is provided inside an end portion of the second conductive film (121). On the other hand, in Fig. 18 of Noguchi, an end portion of the second semiconductor film (104) appears to be coextensive with the end portion of the second conductive film (107). Therefore, since each and every element of claims 2 and 4 is not disclosed in Noguchi, it is respectfully submitted that Noguchi cannot anticipate these claims and favorable reconsideration is requested.

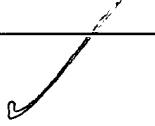
The Official Action next rejects claims 5, 6, 21 and 26 as obvious based on the combination of Noguchi and U.S. Patent 5,917,564 to Kim and rejects claims 9-11,

23-25 and 28-29 as obvious based on the combination of Noguchi and U.S. Patent 6,100,954 to Kim. In response, these claims have either been canceled or depend from one of independent claims 2 and 4 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons as set forth above in that neither Kim '564 nor Kim '954 do anything to overcome the deficiencies noted above. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric J. Robinson
Reg. No. 38,285


Robinson Intellectual Property Law Office, P.C.
PMB 955
21010 Southbank Street
Potomac Falls, Virginia 20165
(571) 434-6789



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Docket No. 0756-2293

Application Serial No. 09/826,416

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 3, 5-11, and 25 and amend claims 23 and 28 follows:

23. (Amended) A semiconductor device according to claim 2, wherein the third conductive film comprises at least one [element] material selected from the group consisting of Ta, Ti, [and] W [or] and an alloy [containing the element] thereof.

28. (Amended) A semiconductor device according to claim 4, wherein the gate electrode comprises at least one [element] material selected from the group consisting of Ta, Ti, [and] W, [or] and an alloy [containing the element] thereof.